



TOWN OF KITTERY

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Nancy Colbert Puff
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Library Committee Minutes - July 30, 2015

Present: George Dow, Tom Emerson, Steve Workman, Tom Newbold, Kristina DeMarco
Debra Kam

Staff: Nancy Colbert Puff, Lee Perkins

The meeting convened at 9:00 am.

The Committee welcomed Debra Kam who was unable to attend the inaugural meeting on July 15th. She introduced herself as someone with an architecture/design and print publishing background. She is a devoted member/user of the Library.

1. Approval of the Minutes of 7/15/15.

As the Committee reviewed the draft minutes, Nancy requested a change to the meeting originally scheduled for August 13th. The Committee agreed to move the meeting to August 19th at 9 am. Upon a motion made by George Dow and seconded by Tom Emerson, the minutes for July 15th were approved.

2. Presentation by Lee Perkins on Library Planning to Date

Lee Perkins handed out an Executive Summary (attached) which asks and answers the question "Why should the Rice Public Library (RPL) move to the Fitzpatrick site? Lee walked through the handout. She noted that accessibility is a high priority, and that the RPL does not currently have a young adult area. She discussed the "microtrend" that libraries are being used as incubator space for entrepreneurs, and cited that local Foreside businesses such as MEat and Kashmirrez market could be seen using the Library's facilities during the start-up phases of their businesses.

Upon reviewing completed tasks, she noted that the Library attended a "Listening Session" in 2012 as part of the Kittery Community Center (KCC) strategic planning process where the community weighed in on the library use being located at the KCC site. In addition, she referenced a 2008 survey conducted by the RPL as well. The Committee requested summaries of both the listening sessions and the survey, and Lee said she could provide them. The Committee also asked to what extent additional documents could be made available to it – Lee generally thought most could be provided, with perhaps the exception of appraisals.

Lee guided the Committee through a proposed site plan. She noted the building is located near the KCC annex, where a Head Start program is located, and that there would be a good interplay between the KCC's afterschool programs and the library's offerings. The RPL is expanding the KCC's parking supply by adding roughly 61 spaces to be shared by the KCC and the RPL. (She

noted that the RPL had visited 10 sites and thought 61 spaces would be sufficient – Tom Emerson supported that idea, estimating that equaled approximately 3 spaces/1,000 s.f. of building space, which is likely appropriate.) She pointed out that vehicular access is from the KCC parking area, with School Street being an emergency access only, and a non-vehicular access is provided from Rogers Road. Nancy mentioned that she had received an email from a resident from the School Street neighborhood expressing concerns about the project. She said she would contact the person who sent it to her for permission to distribute to the Committee, as one of its charges is to determine neighborhood impact. (As an aside, Nancy noted that the plan appeared to depict both pedestrian and vehicular access from Rogers Road – Lee confirmed that pedestrian only is the intent, and that the confusing lines should not be on the plan.)

Lee presented some details about the interior of the proposed structure. She made note of several key features including: the courtyard-shaped building allows for good lines of sight for staff to monitor activities, there would be an outdoor story area, a “maker” space with possibly a 3D printer, a printer press, or other types of creative tools.

Steve Workman responded to Lee’s presentation, and said he wished the KCC had been involved in the Library’s efforts from the start. He noted it was easy for him to recognize the opportunity that results from being located nearby each other, but that the Library never invited the KCC into the planning process; rather, the RPL first presented a plan to demolish the annex, and next presented the current plan. The site has never been examined from a campus planning perspective – parking and access are not well coordinated, circulation and flow are not good, etc. Why couldn’t the buildings be connected? People would not have to exit one building to get to the other, and given our winter weather, this might be a nice amenity.

George Dow wondered if there could be common spaces and also questioned if the access could be improved. Tom Newbold wondered about the perceived “territoriality” that exists. Tom Emerson encouraged looking at the entire site as a campus, including the athletic fields and the rear of the KCC building. Questions about if there has been any evaluation of potential “space synergy” or capacity planning between the KCC and the RPL were raised. Tom Newbold thought it important to recognize that Library use often increases following construction, and the Committee should take this into consideration when thinking about capacity issues. He suggested we collect this data as part of our efforts.

Nancy offered to create a web page where the Committee’s materials could be referenced. The Committee was enthusiastic about this idea.

Nancy noted that the Library was scheduled to meet in workshop with the Council on Aug. 10th, and that the Committee might be interested in attending. She also thought that there may be a possibility that the neighbors might be in attendance, as they are now following the project’s progress closely.

The meeting adjourned at 10 am.